

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 34-54 are presented for consideration. Claims 34, 39, 43, 48 and 53 are independent. Claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Claims 34-54 are newly added. Support for certain features recited in the new claims can be found in the description of the flowchart depicted in Figure 46. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to this preferred embodiment.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0095160 (Ogiwara) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0165070 (Yoshida et al.). Since Claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the § 103 rejection is deemed moot. Moreover, the newly presented claims are believed to be allowable over the citations of record for the following reasons.

In the print control method and system of Ogiwara, a digital still camera and printer are connected and marginless printing of an image stored on a memory card in the camera can be performed. As discussed previously, CPU 52 of the camera obtains the size of a recording paper from the printer and compares the size of the paper with an aspect ratio of the image. The aspect ratio is calculated based on the longitudinal and lateral dimensions of the stored image. That is,

as understood by Applicants, the camera in Ogiwara can decode JPEG image data and generate print data in accordance with a paper size.

It is respectfully submitted that Ogiwara does not disclose or suggest at least transmitting both a print designation created after confirming that is possible to communicate with a printing apparatus (or printer) using a predetermined protocol, and a file describing a printing method of image data to the printing apparatus (or printer) as is recited in independent Claims 34, 39, and 53. Nor does Ogiwara disclose or suggest at least receiving both a print designation created after confirming that it is possible to communicate with an image supply device using a predetermined protocol, and a file describing a printing method of image data from the image supply device, as is recited in independent Claims 43 and 48. Nor does Ogiwara disclose or suggest connecting with a storage medium for storing image data and a file describing a printing method of the image data or a file describing a printing method set by a setting unit, as is also recited in the independent claims.

Thus, Ogiwara fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Yoshida et al. is directed to a digital camera that can store a DPOF file. As understood by Applicants, in Yoshida et al. a file attribute of an image file which is designated to print is set to a read only format such that the image file is protected from being deleted. Yoshida et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Ogiwara noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, the independent claims are patentable over the citations of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection are requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 34, 39, 43, 48, and 53. Dependent Claims 35-38, 40-42, 44-47, 49-52 and 54 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims.

Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Favorable and early examination on the merits is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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